



Index

- Viewpoint • Page 5
- Chaplain • Page 9
- MWR News • Page 10
- Community Events • Page 11
- Sports and Leisure • Page 12

The Signal



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News UPDATE

Army Community Service

Family Advocacy Program presents guest speaker Dr. Malcolm Smith. Smith is one of America's leading educators in the field of violence prevention.

His speech titled "Realistic parenting: What to expect and when to worry," is from 6:30-8:30 p.m. **Wednesday** at Freedom Park Elementary. Childcare is available on request. Call ACS to register at 791-3579.

Live fire exercises

The following training areas are off limits due to convoy live fire training: Training areas 38, 39, 40, 41, 44, 45, 46, 47 and 49. Obey all live fire barricades and road guards. Exercises are currently scheduled for **Monday 23** and **Tuesday, April 23** and **26-29**, and **May 9-10, 18-19** and **25-26**.

All personnel are required to check in at range control, Building 482, prior to entering the training areas or ranges. For information contact range control at 791-5005.

Tax center hours

The Fort Gordon Tax Center is open for tax preparation services.

The Center is open Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-noon (appointments only); and 1:30-6 p.m. (walk-ins) through **April 15**.

The Tax Center is located in Building 29718, Room 118. For appointments, call 791-7812.

Volunteer luncheon

The Top 100 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. **April 19** at the Gordon Club. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance. For information and tickets, call 791-3880/3579.

ACAP hours change

The Army Career and Alumni Program office has new hours effective **Wednesday**.

The new hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., and Wednesday from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. For information, call 791-7333.

Vendors wanted

Vendors are wanted for the annual Cinco de Mayo celebration here April 29 to May 1. To reserve booth space, call 791-9840.

CIF closed

The Central Issue Facility will conduct its annual inventory **April 18-21** and will not issue any clothing and equipment during this period. Turn-ins will be accepted by appointment only. For information call 791-2195.

EAMC holds first medical record summit

Jennifer Chipman
Eisenhower Army Medical Center

The Southeast Regional Medical Command hosted the first-ever Electronic Medical Record Summit at Eisenhower Army Medical Center last week.

For more than 10 years the Army has used one of the most successful computer medical systems, the Composite Health Care System. CHCS stores local patient care data including lab results, X-ray results as well as other medical information.

It screens for drug interactions and allergy warnings and has improved healthcare for beneficiaries using the Army healthcare system.

The biggest benefit of CHCS has been increased safety of healthcare while decreasing the cost of healthcare.

In 2002, President Bush called upon the country to establish a national electronic medical records system. In answer to this, the U.S. Army Medical Command is currently deploying an EMR that is not only comprehensive but also global.

In January 2004, EAMC began deploying CHCSII, the Army's new comprehensive EMR. Once the system is operational in all Army medical treatment facilities, it will include all outpatient, inpatient and dental

records for every Soldier, family member and retiree in the Army healthcare system.

This new global system will help prevent medical errors, eliminate redundant testing, improve documentation and improve healthcare outcomes.

"The utilization of this system is a medical advance comparable to going from the Pony Express to e-mail," said Lt. Col. Ron Moody, the Army Medical Department CHCSII program director.

The summit attendee list included Lt. Gen. Kevin Kiley, the Army Surgeon General, commanders of regional medical commands and the chief of the Army Nurse Corps.

Col. Jeffrey G. Smith Jr., U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon deputy commander, was also in attendance and talked about the future of the integrations of battlefield information systems and what the Army will look like after it moves from 13 networks to one network, and how they can support the AMED information systems requirements.

"The Army is leading the way with vision, leadership and a clear focus on providing the best possible care for the defenders of our nation," said Moody.

(Chipman is the EAMC public affairs officer.)



Courtesy photo

Brig. Gen. Eric Schoomaker (left), Southeast Regional Medical Command and Eisenhower Army Medical Center commander, and Lt. Gen. Kevin Kiley, U.S. Army Surgeon General, talk with Spc. Thomas Cirincione, a patient at the Veterans Administration Hospital rehabilitation unit. Kiley visited the SERMC/VA rehabilitation unit at the uptown VA March 29. The unit was specifically renovated for active duty Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. Kiley was at EAMC to attend the first-ever Electronic Medical Record Summit.



Photo by James Hudgins

Repeat?

Defending champion Phil Mickelson (right) is in Augusta this week to defend his title and green jacket at the Masters golf tournament. Also in town for his 45th and possibly last visit to Augusta National Golf Club as a competitor is six-time champion Jack Nicklaus. The Pro Golfers Hall of Famer was honored by the city of Augusta at its annual Mayor's Masters Reception Monday night, and also attended the Champions dinner. Look for coverage of this year's tournament in the next edition of *The Signal*.

New personnel system arrives soon

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

The Department of Defense's proposed National Security Personnel System will bring some changes to the civilian personnel system.

"It will streamline the recruiting process," said Steve Rayle, human resources specialist at Fort Gordon. "We will have more flexibility in managing personnel."

Rayle said it will take about 18 months to two years to implement the system.

The implementation will be done in phases, called spirals, beginning in July.

After each spiral, assessments of how the process is going will be done and any changes made according to the Civilian Personnel Online website, www.cpol.army.mil.

See NSPS, page 6

Soldier receives German military honor

Spc. Nicole M. Robus
Signal military editor

The Federal Republic of Germany presented one of its highest military honors, the Silver Cross of Honor of the Federal Armed Forces, to Col. Jon Dailey Friday at Conrad Hall.

Dailey was presented the award by German Army Lt. Col. Peter Bauer, German liaison officer here.

"It gives me great pleasure and honor to present the Silver Cross of Honor of the Federal Armed Forces to retired Col. Jon Dailey," said Bauer.

Germany rarely awards the medal to a non-German. It is similar in prestige to the U.S. Legion of Merit. It is awarded to foreign military members who demonstrate an extraordinary dedication to cross cultural activities that foster understanding and mutual support.

"I feel truly honored to be recognized for something that I love to do, which is to teach forensic dentistry," said Dailey.

"It is also an honor and a privilege to have Maj. Gen. Janet A. Hicks, the commanding general of U.S. Army Signal School and Fort Gordon, my family and my dental colleagues here," added Dailey.

"I am very proud of my son. It's a great honor for him to have his colleagues here to support him and see him awarded this very special medal," said Betty Dailey, Dailey's mother.

Before Dailey retired, he was the assistant director of the

Army Dental Specialty Residency in prosthodontics at Tingay Dental Clinic

Dailey is one of the leading experts of the U.S. Armed Forces in the area of Forensic Dental Medicine, said Bauer.

"He is one of the only two American medical officers au-

thorized to conduct accredited courses in the area of dentistry on behalf of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C., for identification purposes based on dental records," said Bauer.

See Cross, page 3



Photo by Spc. Nicole Robus

German Army Lt. Col. Peter Bauer, German liaison officer here, awards the Silver Cross of Honor of the Federal Armed Forces to Col. Jon Dailey, Friday at Conrad Hall.

Signaleers earn college credit

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

A successful collaboration between Augusta Technical College and Fort Gordon's School of Information Technology recently entered a new phase.

"This program is a no-brainer. It's a win-win for everyone. The Soldiers win; the local community wins; Augusta Tech wins," said Charles Lee, an Augusta Tech instructor who teaches classes to Soldiers at Fort Gordon.

As a former Soldier and instructor at Fort Gordon, Lee could see the parallels between the CISCO classes taught to noncommissioned officers at Fort Gordon and the classes in the college classroom.

Lee helped put a few academic twists on the class, and now Soldiers can receive college credit just by taking the classes they'd normally be taking.

In the 18 months, since the program started, more than 600 Soldiers, mainly those in the Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Class, have graduated the class and received college credits at Augusta Tech.

With the success of the routing and switching classes for noncommissioned officers, another program is being implemented for one of the warrant officers' tracts. About two weeks ago, the first group of warrant officers completed the class.

The warrant officers take advanced computer courses, said Lee, and with the credit they receive, they are only a few college hours short of an associate degree in computer network engineering.

So far two warrant officers have expressed an interest in completing the associate degree, and Lee said he expects another four to do so within the next month.

"If this is successful, we'd love to expand it," he said.

The program requires dual enrollment in the Fort Gordon classes and at Augusta Tech. Tuition can be paid by using the Hope Grant. All of the classes are held at Fort Gordon.

Mary Hammond, deputy director of the School of Information Technology, backs the program.

"It's an opportunity for Soldiers to continue their education, and we appreciate everything Augusta Tech does for us," she said.

Not only have ANCOC students gone through the program, but officials with the SIT, including Lt. Col. Michael Bowie, the director, have gone through the first certificate class as well.

With two programs underway, Lee already has his eyes on a few more warrant tracts that would conform well with the program, he said.

Keeping secrets

Georgia Southern professor helps Army keep its secrets

When a fast-moving Army unit stops to set up a headquarters in Iraq, it's a different picture than what it was just a few years ago.

No longer just a handful of officers sharing a map board and a radio, today's battalion and brigade headquarters units include laptop computers and wireless networks.

Keeping insurgents, terrorists and other enemies from tapping into those networks is a major priority. Georgia Southern University professor Sonny Butler is working hand-in-hand with the Army to help it keep its communications secure.

A retired Army lieutenant colonel with 22 years of service and an associate professor in the College of Information Technology, Butler is working closely with the Signal School, and specifically with the instructors and students in the Telecommunications Systems Engineering Course.

This intensive graduate-level course teaches Army and Marine officers the latest science of computer and communications security.

"The Army moves so fast now, they have to be able to move, shoot and communicate," said Butler. "It is vital that any communication, whether it be from one person's laptop to another in a headquarters unit or from a unit to a headquarters, be absolutely secure."

Beyond being secure, the constantly evolving encryption technology must also be functional.

"You need to have multiple layers of security, but it must also be fast and accessible to a Soldier when he or she needs it," Butler said. "When a unit needs to send or receive vital information, they don't have time to wait for a slow encryption system."

Butler is acting as a research advisor to some of the student officers attending the telecommunications course.

"We are looking at some of the problems and opportunities that the Army needs to address in the area of communications," he said. "Given the changes being made in the mobility of the Army in the field and the critical nature of communications be-

tween troop units and the gathering of intelligence, I am serving as one more individual to help organize and solve some hard problems."

One of Butler's former students, Maj. Gary Edmonds, is currently stationed in Kuwait as an advisor on communications issues to the Office of Military Cooperation.

"Things are OK here in Kuwait, even though we have had a few gun battles in the last month," Edmonds wrote to Butler. "My classmates and I received great help from you in the FA24 course which has assisted me in accomplishing my job."

The partnership between Georgia Southern and the Signal School may soon go a step further. Butler and others are trying to establish a program that would allow graduates of the telecommunications course to continue on and receive a master's degree from Georgia Southern.

"That course is so intensive that when the officers graduate, they are only about nine hours short of the requirements for a master's degree," Butler said. "We are trying to set up a program that will allow them to pick up their last few courses and come away with a Georgia Southern diploma."

Butler points out that an advanced degree is virtually a requirement for career advancement in today's military, but he says there are advantages to the university also.



Courtesy photo

Career choices

Aiken County, S.C., school district held its second annual Career Quest March 29 at Aiken Technical College. More than 1,800 students spoke with area professionals about career options. Capt. Jason Song (*pictured*), Company E commander, 369th Signal Battalion, was one of two that represented the Signal Corps. Nine servicemembers and two civilians from Fort Gordon participated.

"Georgia Southern will be exposed to a wide variety of graduate students, including some international students, and we expect we will receive future assistance from these students as they ascend the ranks of the military and share their experience with others throughout the world," he said.

"We'll also get some great students for the graduate program on a continual basis throughout the years."
(Courtesy GSU.)

President awards first OIF Medal of Honor

Eric Cramer
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — An American Soldier’s family received the highest military recognition, the first Medal of Honor for Operation Iraqi Freedom, from President George W. Bush in the East Room of the White House on Monday.

Bush presented the Medal of Honor to David Smith, the 11-year-old son of Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith, who was killed April 4, 2003, exactly two years ago, in an action outside the then-Saddam Hussein International Airport.

Smith manned the .50-caliber machine gun on top of an armored personnel carrier in order to defend a courtyard while his men from the 11th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, withdrew and evacuated wounded. Late in the action, he died after being struck by enemy fire.

The president quoted a letter Smith wrote to his parents, but never mailed, saying he was willing to “give all that I am” so that his men would return home.

“On this day two years ago, Sergeant Smith gave his all for his men. Five days later, Baghdad fell, and the Iraqi people were liberated,” Bush said. “And today, we bestow upon Sergeant Smith the first

Medal of Honor in the war on terror. He’s also the first to be awarded this new Medal of Honor flag, authorized by the United States Congress. We count ourselves blessed to have Soldiers like Sergeant Smith, who put their lives on the line to advance the cause of freedom and protect the American people.”

Bush said Smith’s story was that of “a boy transformed into a man and a leader.”

“His friends and family will tell you that he joined the Army in 1989, after finishing high school. When he joined the Army, he was a typical young American. He liked sports, he liked fast cars, and he liked to stay out late with his friends — pursuits that occasionally earned him what the Army calls ‘extra duty.’ — Scrubbing floors.”

The president said Smith underwent two life-changing experiences.

Bush said the first experience was meeting his wife Birgit while he was stationed in Germany.

“(The) second great change in Paul’s life would come when he shipped off to Saudi Arabia to fight in the first Gulf War. There the young combat engineer learned that his training had a purpose and could save lives on the battlefield. Paul returned from that war determined that other Soldiers would benefit from the lessons he had learned.”

“Paul earned his sergeant’s stripes and became known as a stickler for detail. Sergeant Smith’s seriousness wasn’t always appreciated by the greener troops under his direction,” Bush said. “Those greener troops oftentimes found themselves to do tasks over and over again, until they got it right. Spc. Michael Seaman, who is with us today, says, ‘He was hard in training because he knew we had to be hard in battle.’ Spc. Sea-



Courtesy photo

Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith’s family received the first Medal of Honor awarded in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Here, Smith is shown in the field during the war in Iraq.

man will also tell you that he and others are alive today because of Sergeant Smith’s discipline”

Bush described the action in which Smith died while manning a .50-caliber machinegun defending his troops in a compound near the Baghdad Airport.

“Sergeant Smith’s leadership saved the men in the courtyard, and he prevented an enemy attack on the aid station just up the road,” the president said. “Sergeant Smith continued to fire until he took a fatal round to the head. His actions in that courtyard saved the lives of more than 100 American Soldiers.”

“Like every one of the men and women in uniform who have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Sergeant Paul Smith was a volunteer. We thank his family for the father, husband and son and brother who can never be replaced,” the president said.

“We recall with appreciation the fellow Soldiers whose lives he saved, and the many more he inspired,” Bush said. “And we express our gratitude for a new generation of Americans, every bit as selfless and dedicated to liberty as any that has gone on before — a dedication exemplified by the sacrifice and valor of Sgt. 1st Class Paul Ray Smith.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Reebea Critser

Sgt. 1st Class Paul Ray Smith’s family wait for the applause from the audience to die after President George W. Bush presented them with Smith’s Medal of Honor Monday at the White House. (From left) Daughter Jessica, 18; wife, Birgit; and son David, 11, honor the two-year anniversary of Smith’s death by receiving the award from Bush. Smith died protecting his unit in Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Cross

From page 1

Dailey has excelled in every aspect in the specialized area of dental medicine, demonstrating meritorious service.

“I conducted workshops in Munich in December 2002 and in August 2004,” said Dailey, now a dental director of an 18-chair dental clinic in Bangor, Maine.

During these workshops he shared his knowledge and expertise to many international participants including the federal bureau of criminal investigation, added Bauer. This course was quite unique in Europe and led to a grateful and more knowledgeable population.

“I taught forensic den-

tistry to a vast majority of dentists in the German Army,” said Dailey. “The students were very receptive to my teachings and it helped that there wasn’t a language barrier.”

After the Tsunami hit Thailand, Germany sent two teams of dentists to identify the German nationals that were killed. They used the knowledge they had learned from the workshops to identify their dead, said Dailey.

“They had the knowledge they needed when they went over there. And to know that I was the one who taught them was quite an honor,” added Dailey.

Silver Cross’s history

The Silver Cross of Honor is based on the Iron Cross awarded to German soldiers for bravery.

The history of the Iron Cross is derived from

G e r m a n Knights of the 14th century. In 1813, King Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia established the Iron Cross as a military honor. It was a way to pay tribute to brave soldiers who were involved in the Napoleonic Wars.

The symbolism of the decoration originated from the legend of the Goddess of Peace. When her Quadriga, a two-wheeled chariot drawn by four horses, was retrieved from Paris at Napoleon’s fall, the Goddess was re-established atop Berlin’s Brandenburg Gate. An Iron Cross was

substituted for her laurel wreath, making her into a Goddess of Victory.

Over the course of the following 140 years, the Iron Cross has also been issued as an award for bravery in battle as well as other military contributions.

In 1955, when the new German armed forces were founded, the stylized Iron Cross became the insignia of the Bundeswehr. Awarding of the honorary cross as a symbol of love, freedom, gallantry and courage,

has to be approved by the German president and is then awarded by the German defense minister for extraordinary fulfillment of military duties.

(Information from a U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Forces Strategic Command press release.)



Golf not only event in town

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

Golf may be the big ticket in Augusta this weekend, but for the majority of people without Masters’ badges, there are a few alternatives. The Piccadilly Circus will present nine shows today through Sunday at the Augusta Exchange Club fairgrounds. Featuring 75 performers, a petting zoo, Iggy and Ziggy the two-headed piggy and adventure rides, the circus will be at 1:30, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday, and 1, 3:30 and 6 p.m. Sunday.

COMEDY THEATER
The Aiken Community Playhouse will

present 5 Women Wearing the Same Dress at 8 p.m. today and Saturday at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts, on Newberry Street in Aiken. Actress Angelique Perretta said the comedy is a definite “chick” play. “Every woman can relate to this gathering of women,” she said. Men, however, shouldn’t allow her definition to keep them away. “Guys will probably like it,” she said. “We talk about them.” The play is about five women with very little in common except they are all bridesmaids in a wedding. They escape from the long and drawn-out celebrations by hiding in the bedroom of the bride’s sister.

There, they talk about their views on life and love. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors 60 and older, \$10 for students and \$6 for children 12 and younger. For more information, call (803) 648-1438.

MASTERS CELEBRITY BASH
DJ Kenny Ray and recording artist Kascade are the featured guests at the Masters Celebrity Bash at the Modjeska Lounge, at 813 Broad St., from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday. Advance tickets to the catered party are \$10; \$15 at the door. For more information, call 303-9700 or go to www.modjeskalounge.com.

Law assists troops’ dealings with creditors

Gerry Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Federal law prohibits mortgage lenders from immediately foreclosing on homes owned by servicemembers deployed overseas on military duty. All servicemembers, including those deployed, are protected under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, signed by President Bush on Dec. 19, 2003, said Col. Christopher Garcia, director of legal policy at the Office of the Undersecretary of De-

fense for Personnel and Readiness. “The SCRA includes a provision that protects against default judgment. In any civil action, such as a lawsuit or a foreclosure, in which the defendant does not make an appearance, the court must require the plaintiff bringing the suit to file an affidavit saying whether or not the other party in the lawsuit is a servicemember,” Garcia explained. And, if the party being sued for foreclosure or some other debt action is a servicemember,

Garcia continued, “then the SCRA requires the judge to do certain things to protect the servicemember’s rights” under the law. For example, he said, the courts “are required to stay the court proceedings for a minimum of 90 days until the servicemember can be present to assert a defense.” Garcia said he had no specific information regarding news reports saying some deployed servicemembers have had homes foreclosed on in contradiction to the law.

Business-community compliance with the SCRA “generally has been very good,” Garcia noted. Yet, he acknowledged, there’ve been “isolated cases of noncompliance.” This usually occurs, Garcia said, “when a lender, or landlord, or other person dealing with a servicemember is unaware of the law.” After lenders and other creditors become aware, they usually comply with it, Garcia said. All active, Reserve and Guard troops on active duty, Garcia said, can contact local military legal assistance officers to assist them in enforcing SCRA-specified rights.

Servicemembers and their family members can personally visit legal assistance offices. A legal assistance attorney can “draft a letter or make a phone call,” he pointed out. If the creditor refuses to comply with the SCRA, either the servicemember can sue privately, or the Department of Justice can bring an enforcement action in federal court. The SCRA is an update to the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act of 1940, which was established to protect deployed troops who have difficulty meeting personal financial obligations due to military service.



Photo by Sgt. Sam Smith

Sweet tooth

Soldiers from the 369th Signal Battalion collect Girl Scout cookies March 31 at Gym 5. Girl Scout Troop 5919, from Springboro, Ohio, “adopted” the battalion, and donated 1,850 boxes of cookies to the Soldiers here.

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

Commentary: Living wills – matter of life or death

Elaine Wilson
Army News Service

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – The Schiavo saga both captured and divided the nation as moral and legal questions were raised over the right to live or die.

While people remain at odds over the underlying issues, most are in consensus on one topic – the importance of living wills.

“We’ve had a huge increase over the past couple of months because of the Schiavo case,” said Burton Brasher, Fort Sam Houston Chief of Client Services.

“We’ve probably done more in the past two months than we’ve done in the past year,” added Brasher.

Brasher defines a living will as a legal document that expresses people’s personal healthcare wishes when they’re unable to.

“If you’re incapacitated, a living will provides the doctor with guidance for your continued treatment,” Brasher said.

This guidance includes decisions related to extraordinary measures to sustain life, a goal the doctor aims for in the absence of a living will.

“Doctors are trained to do everything they can to preserve life,” Brasher said.

“But not all people want to live like that, whether due to religious beliefs, personal convictions or financial reasons,” added Brasher.

Living wills are particularly important for people heading into risky situations, such as combat or a medical procedure.

“It helps remove uncertainty,” Brasher said.

“We have a lot of doctors sending patients over here before surgeries,” he added.

“They recognize the importance of the document. The more a doctor knows, the better he can do his job,” said Brasher.

There is no federal standard for living wills so many states have developed their own format.

Texas, for example, has two documents, both referred to as living wills.

One is a Texas Directive to Physicians and the other is a special Power of Attorney for Healthcare.

The first expresses the patient’s personal

desires in advance, and the other designates a “decision-maker” who would decide on the measures taken to preserve life at a later time.

Either document is legally binding, but Brasher said people who have both documents should make sure neither one conflicts with the other.

“Make sure your personal wishes and the person you designate as your decision-maker in the power of attorney are on the same page,” he said.

Other states have just one document.

And, in some states, organ donation is included in living wills, while the choice to donate is designated through the driver’s license system in others.

Whatever the differences, Brasher recommends a living will based on where people live, whether a resident or not, to remove the “guess work.”

“It’s best to have one for the state you live in or PCS to so the local doctor has a document he’s familiar with,” he said.

However, since each state has its own

format, the legal office here includes a header that asks for the will to be recognized nationwide.

Another way to avoid potential problems is to update living wills every two to three years so there’s recent proof and “less questions raised about whether you still feel the same way as you did when you signed the document,” Brasher said.

People also should talk to their healthcare providers, particularly when undergoing a medical procedure.

“Find out the consequences of the procedure beforehand,” Brasher said.

“That way, you can include specific requests in your living will,” he added.

“For instance, if you don’t want a feeding tube you can say so in the directive,” added Brasher.

Such a directive can be the difference between a private decision and a national debate.

Any military legal assistance office can prepare living wills free of charge to active-duty military members, family members, retirees and reservists on active duty for 30-plus days.

(Wilson serves with the Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Public Information Office.)



Feedback...

By Spc. Armando Monroig

Do you have a living will? Why or why not?



At the present time I don't have a will. It's something everybody needs. It cuts down on conflict after a loved one is deceased.

**(DS) Sgt. 1st Class
Charlton Jefferson
Co.B, 551st Signal Bn.**



Yes, I have one. It was drawn up over 30 years ago with my desires and wishes, in case something happens to me, and I can't respond.

**Harry Richmond
Retired Air Force**



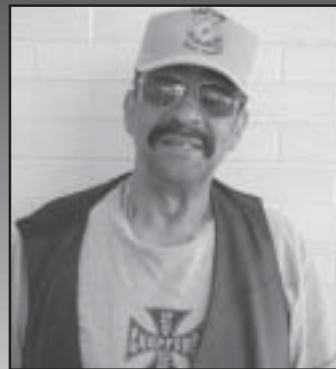
Yes I do because I want that, if I pass before my husband and children, everything will be in order. So that they will adhere by my wishes.

**Staff Sgt. Cordina Porter
642nd Area Support Group**



Yes. Because it is very important. For instance, your state will take your property or your estate unless you have a living will.

**Staff Sgt. Stanford Green
HHC 15th Signal Brigade**



Yes. In my living will it states to cremate my body and do not extend my life if there is not justified means to correct a medical difficulty – to die with dignity.

**Weldon Nock
Retired Army**



I've had one for years. I saw so many people that were on life support that I didn't want to be that way. I did this so my family doesn't have to make a decision.

**Clyde Holt
Retired Air Force**

Operation Elusive Concept

By Chris Ashby



Children also share pain of moving

Staff Sgt. Terrence Hayes
Gordon Regional Security Operations Center

“Dad, why do we move so much,” my 6-year-old son asked me before arriving to Fort Gordon. “Why do I always have to leave my friends all the time?”

I guess Bill Cosby was right when he said, “Kids say the darndest things.”

How do you respond to a question like that without choking up a little?

At that very moment, I realized my children share the same pain I endure every time I PCS from one location to another.

In the military, we develop friendships, relationships and partnerships, only to see them fade away after a couple years or so.

The same applies to our kids.

Over the course of my eight years of service and four years of marriage, my children have attended three different schools, lived in four different neighborhoods and probably had more than 50 friends they’ve had to say goodbye to.

And we thought we had it tough.

On the flipside, many times we want to PCS and get away from our current work situation.

However, sometimes we fail to consider how that will affect those closest to us.

We’ve all wanted to move to another installation or into a new position just for change, but do our kids want to.

But back to my son’s question; I answered him by telling him that he’s in the Army as much as I am.

I broke it down further telling him that it would only get tougher as he grew older and as my career progressed.

Eventually, after a long talk, he smiled and said, “I’ll make new friends.”

I guess kids can teach you a lot about life.

I learned that I’m not the only one feeling the pain of moving.

I also learned that if you listen to your children they can put things in a better perspective than many adults.

The next time your child asks you why do you have to move again, pause before you speak and tell them that they’re as much part of the military as you are.

It will make them feel better and feel like they’re part of the team.

(Hayes is the GRSOC public affairs office noncommissioned officer in charge.)

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Communication, integration of information key to jointness

Samantha Quigley
American Forces Press Service

PORTSMOUTH, Va. – The situation the military found itself in after Sept. 11, 2001, was one it was not organizationally prepared to deal with, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said here today.

Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers told representatives of the defense industry attending the Industry 2005 Symposium that the military didn't have the standing capability it needed for this new situation.

"Since 9/11, it is clear that we are in a new security environment. How we organize ourselves is very, very important," Myers said at the symposium, co-hosted by U.S. Joint Forces Command and the National Defense Industrial Association.

He added that the military has achieved the halfway mark to that goal. "I'd say we're kind of in the middle of this process of organizing ourselves to do joint battle," Myers said.

A critical step in this reorganization was creating the Standing Joint Force headquarters, he said.

According to the SJFHQ home page, "During day-to-day operations or when a contingency requires establishing a joint task force, all or part of the SJFHQ element is assigned to a combatant commander and is embedded in his staff."

This, Myers said, promotes com-

munication and understanding between the services. For instance, what used to be a totally Army unit, may now have a smattering of servicemembers from other services. All of this further enhances the concept of jointness.

Another step to greater command and control is integration of information. "We've made some great progress," Myers said.

He noted that in Afghanistan in 2001 and 2002, sources of information integral to an operation weren't even housed in the same building. When he asked at the time how information was communicated, he was told it was physically carried back and forth.

"It was not the perfect setup," he said. "We've come a long way. Iraq was much better."

Myers said changes in acquisition systems would help with moving information. Currently, four or five officials make major decisions on command-and-control systems.

The chairman said changes could be expected in this process. "Changes won't be popular, but they have to happen," he said.

They have to happen, he said, because it has never been more important to get integrated, coordinated information quickly. Troops need this capability to deal with the asymmetric warfare they are encountering, he said.



Photo by Samantha Quigley

Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, addresses defense-industry representatives April 5 about the importance of enhancing jointness and the role of communication and integration in that effort. Myers was the keynote speaker on the first of the two-day Joint Forces Command/ National Defense Industrial Association Industry 2005 Symposium in Portsmouth, Va.



Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

First aid first

Soldiers tend to a 'wounded' comrade during training at the Medical Simulation Training System Lab March 29. Medics from the 4th Ranger Training Battalion, Fort Benning, Ga., simulated an attack and Soldiers treated the injuries before evacuating them to the simulation lab, where medical mannequins were programmed with the same injuries. The Soldiers honed trauma treatment skills, conducting primary and secondary surveys, giving care under fire, and establishing communication with the aid station for continuity of care. The Rangers used smoke grenades and artillery simulator to add realism to the training.

NSPS

From page 1

NSPS will bring with it a performance-based pay system and a pay banding system that eliminates "steps" as in the pay grade system. Employees will receive raises based on their job performance rather than receive automatic raises, according to a NSPS fact sheet.

"Unacceptable performers are not eligible for pay increases under the proposed system," according to the information sheet.

Since managers and supervisors will have an increased role in determining performance-based pay increases, they will receive extensive training.

"Training will focus on improving skills needed for effective performance management: setting clear expectations; communicating with employees; and linking individual expectations to the goals and objectives of the organization. Supervisors and managers will be

held accountable for how effectively they use the tools provided by NSPS.

They will also be subject to the pay and performance provisions of the system, and their pay will be affected by how well they perform their duties as supervisors and managers," according to the fact sheet.

NSPS will not bar unions or collective bargaining.

Ten labor unions filed a lawsuit in February to delay the

start of NSPS, according to a news story at www.fcw.com.

The unions do not approve of the pay for performance rules and the replacement of the pay grade system with a pay band one.

GI Bill benefits, not just for college

Spc. Nicole M. Robus
Signal military editor

Did you know that you can use your Montgomery GI Bill Benefits in the workplace and not just for college?

It's true. The Georgia Department of Veterans Service promotes the program.

Most Soldiers and veterans are aware that they can use the GI Bill to pay for the costs of education, said Harry Stumpf, senior coordinator for the Georgia Department of Veterans Service.

However, many are unaware that they can also receive up to \$3,300 (Reserve component) or \$11,800 (active duty) in tax-free benefits for training 24 months in an on-the-job or apprenticeship training program, he added.

The OJT program offers eligible veterans an alternative way to use their GI Bill education benefits.

Under OJT, veterans learn skilled occupations by performing each job process described in the training outline.

This is done under the supervision of a skilled worker. While training, eligible participants draw monthly education benefits from Veterans Affairs in addition to their salary.

OJT programs may be approved in a wide variety of occupations. Some in trades that relate to military occupation, but many that do not.

Programs currently approved range from law enforcement and administration to mechanics and electricians.

Employers also benefit from these OJT programs, said Stumpf. It is an excellent way to attract and retain well-disciplined employees in hard to fill positions.

Employers direct the veteran's training, thereby ensuring that they become familiar with work processes as defined by the employer, equipment to be used upon completion of training, and company policies.

There are no direct payments to employers under this program.

Payments received by the veteran are intended to serve as a salary supplement during the training period.

In order to be considered for the program the individual must be employed full-time, said Stumpf.

"If you think you are eligible for VA education benefits and interested in the OJT program, the first step is to contact your employer," said Stumpf.

"Your employer will know if the job objective toward which the veteran is to be trained has been approved for OJT benefits," added Stumpf.

If the program is already approved then the veteran and the employer must complete a VSO Form 55, training request, and send it to the Georgia Department of Veterans Service to begin the enrollment process.

This form can be obtained from the Georgia Department of Veterans Service.

If there is not an approved OJT program for the new job, or if you are beginning training in a new position within the company, complete a VSO Form 55 with the employer, and include a copy of the job description when you submit it to the State Approving Agency of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service.

The SAA will contact the employer concerning the new approval.

In addition to the OJT program there is the apprenticeship program.

Apprenticeship training is similar in nature to OJT, but it includes theoretical instruction as well as practical training. The person learning a trade, an "apprentice," is taught by a skilled worker, a "journeyman."

The veteran receives VA education benefits while working full-time and earning wages, said Stumpf.

Apprenticeship programs differ from OJT in that they are normally two or more years in length.

Apprenticeship programs require a minimum of 144 hours of related classroom instruction per year.

The employer, local technical college, union, or the Federal Bureau of Apprenticeship Training usually provides related classroom instruction, he added.

Non-registered programs are approved by the State Approving Agency.

Both the Federal Bureau of Apprenticeship Training and the State Approving Agency approve registered apprenticeship programs. Some examples of approved apprenticeships are carpenter, electrician, brick mason and plumber.

The program is for newly hired or recently promoted veterans with an honorable discharge, and eligible for GI Bill benefits, said Stumpf. Veterans with active duty service, and members of the reserve component actively drilling and currently on a six year contract may also be eligible.

Active duty veterans are eligible for 10 years after being separated, he added. Members of the Reserve Component have 14 years to use their GI Bill, starting when they complete initial active duty training. The Department of Veterans Affairs is the authority for eligibility.

Veterans enrolled in OJT or apprenticeship programs must show that they are making satisfactory progress in their training, said Stumpf.

To demonstrate progress, veterans are required to maintain a written record of their work and training hours for each month.

Veterans in training are required to be present on the job for the same number of hours that others in the company normally work, he added.

Veterans are allowed to work overtime or irregular hours.

However, a veteran must work at least 30 hours a week or 120 hours during each month to be entitled to full benefit payment for that month.

(Information for this story was gathered from the Georgia Department of Veterans Service State Approving Agency.)



Memorial service

A memorial service for Spc. Jatarius Osborne, Company B, 67th Signal Battalion, 93rd Signal Brigade, will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Bicentennial Chapel on Brainard Avenue.

Osborne died Tuesday at Fort Benning, Ga., where he was a student at Primary Leadership Development Course. Cause of death is unknown.

For information call 791-0766 or 339-7028.



Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

Scooby Doo

Scooby Doo and two of his friends, Jasmine Rodriguez, 8 years old, and her brother Gabriel Estrada, 7, pose for a photo at the Post Exchange Tuesday, during Scooby's visit from Carowinds theme park in North Carolina. Scooby also greeted fans at Aladdin Travel and Youth Services.

Women’s group seeks members

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

The Military Council of Catholic Women at Fort Gordon’s Good Shepherd Chapel is looking for new members.

“We are trying to encourage more active-duty” to become members, said Sgt. 1st Class Dawn Harding, secretary of the national organization, who is stationed at Fort Gordon.

Harding said that many of the members are retirees and that others who may be interested in joining the group may

not know it exists.

The mission of the council, which is open to military and spouses, is to empower and educate Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service, Harding said.

The group meets at 6:30 p.m. the Thursday before the first Friday of the month at the chapel.

Meetings are usually opened by reciting the rosary, then followed by a training session, snacks and a social time.

At other times during the month, council members meet to perform community service.

“We are a little weak on community service right now. We are trying to bolster that,” she said.

Volunteer efforts include special food drives during the year, buying gifts for the underprivileged at Christmas time and helping at the soup kitchen.

Another community service effort is providing CARE packages to deployed Soldiers, and assisting the family members of deployed Soldiers by helping with daily tasks such as running errands.

A special training event en-

titled, “Journey of Faith,” will be held from noon to 9 p.m. April 23 at the Family Outreach Center, behind Woodworth Community Library.

Lunch and dinner will be provided during the event.

For more information about the group or the training program, call chapter president Sherry Wodicka at 592-6478.

Harding said that some members of the group will be wearing name tags or other identification on Sunday after mass in case women in the congregation would like more information about MCCW.

What if you’re wrong

Chaplain (Capt.) W.B. Tripp
447th Signal Battalion

A Soldier stopped by my office some time ago and asked me a religious question that I ask Soldiers.

The twofold question was essentially, “What do you believe and why?”

I responded that I was a Christian who believes in creation by God, and the reason for believing this was my usual “not-just compelling-but-overwhelming evidence,” answer. Not satisfied, he asked for the evidence.

Instead of giving evidence supporting creation, I decided to go the route of “untenable alternative.” This is where there are only two possibilities and one is proven wrong, which is what I figured he wanted anyway.

I told the Soldier that atheism was a contradiction, and that agnosticism is just as untenable.

He looked incredulous. I said that while the “agnostic” isn’t sure whether God exists, the atheist “denies the existence of God.” To do this one must have perfect knowledge of all things, in order to rule out even the possibility of His existence. This is called the quality of “omniscience,” a quality only God has; thus, the atheist makes himself what he denies exists, a contradiction.

He then changed his belief from “atheist” to “agnostic.”

“So you admit the possibility of God?” The Soldier, realizing the dead-end logic he was in, countered that an atheist “...doesn’t deny the existence of God, they don’t have a belief in God.” Despite the fact that those who publish dictionaries and theology books beg to differ, logically the statement leaves him in the same boat as the agnostic: if you won’t deny, then you admit the possibility – one or the other.

Ironically, isn’t it, that the choice of the “non-existence of God,” avoids the choice of taking a stand. Finally, I asked him what I often ask myself when rock climbing, “What if you’re wrong?”

The French mathematician and philosopher, Blaise Pascal, asked this very question in what has become known as “Pascal’s Equation.” It follows essentially “I believe in God and you don’t; if you’re right and I am wrong, we end up in the exact same condition. On the other hand, if I am right, and you’re wrong, our eternal states will be very very different.”

One side has everything to lose and nothing to gain; the other, everything to gain, nothing to lose. But is this a valid reason to believe? Should I believe in God only because I’m hedging my bets? Most people are surprised when I answer those questions, “Not really.”

Ultimately, the reason for believing in the spiritual God shouldn’t be merely physical evidence. There’s plenty of it, but I know God exists because He proves it in my life every day, and this “relationship” is by far superior to mere physical evidence.

To base my faith on mere intellectual foundations, the ramblings and musings of fallen, fallible, mortal men would be to give up the best of proofs.

So what to do? Let’s ask that question in the title, but in the first person: “What if I’m wrong?” Seek God; if He’s not there, you’ll be no worse off. If He is, He’ll prove it to you, beyond any doubt, and on a much deeper level than mere physical proof. And then you’ll only have to answer that question once in your life, instead of over and over again.

A wise man once asked, “Either there is a God, or there is not. Which eventuality worries you?”

Celebrities laud disabled vets

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

SNOWMASS VILLAGE, Colo. – Actress Bo Derek said she wouldn’t have missed the opportunity to mingle with more than 350 disabled veterans gathered here at the 19th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

“It’s such a positive, happy experience, and it’s so wonderful to see all the attention going to the veterans who deserve it so much,” said Derek, national honorary chairwoman for the Department of Veterans Affairs National Rehabilitation Special Events and a five-time participant in the winter sports clinic.

The actress, best known from the movie “10,” chatted and posed for photos with the veterans during a “Taste of Snowmass” event in which local chefs dished up their culinary specialties for clinic participants. The event was part of the opening activities for a six-day program that encourages veterans to push their limits and discover their capabilities through a variety of winter sports.

“I feel like the lucky American who gets to say, ‘Thank you,’ to the veterans for their service,” Derek told the American Forces Press Service at the event. “Everybody wants to say, ‘Thank you,’ but not everyone gets the opportunity.”

Among veterans Derek chatted with at the event was Jaime Garcia, a former Navy petty officer who suffered a spinal injury in 1999 and is attending his first winter sports clinic.

Grimacing ear to ear after chatting with

Derek, Garcia declared his intentions for the days ahead. “I want to take away memories, to meet new people, and to just have fun,” he said.

This year’s event features a star-studded cast. Grammy award-winning singers Vince Gill and Amy Grant will give a private concert, and up-and-coming country singer Ty Nelson performed a patriotic tribute during the opening ceremonies April 3.

Also during the opening ceremony, Rudy Ruettinger, of Notre Dame football fame and the inspiration for the movie

“Rudy,” urged the veterans to look beyond their disabilities and “go for your dreams.”

Ruettinger, an inspirational speaker, told the veterans of the power of passion and urged them to apply it to their lives. “When you have passion, your attitude changes,” he said. “You see life differently.”

He praised the winter sports clinic participants for their courage and determination in overcoming their disabilities. “You are an inspiration by who you are,” he said.



Photo by Donna Miles

Actress Bo Derek jokes with Jaime Garcia, a first-time participant in the winter sports clinic.

Vietnam-era vet inspires disabled troops from Iraq, Afghanistan

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

SNOWMASS VILLAGE, Colo. – Bruce Gibbings remembers the heartache of the motorcycle accident that landed him in a wheelchair, bringing an abrupt halt to his competitive National Standard Race skiing.

Today the Vietnam-era veteran is back on the slopes with the recognition that the sky’s the limit in terms of what he can do – and he’s sharing that message with disabled veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan here for the 19th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

Gibbings remembers being invited to his first winter sports clinic in 1999, just three years after his motorcycle accident.

“I was hesitant to come. I was very afraid,” said the Visalia, Calif., resident who served in the Army in the late 1960s along the German-Czech border.

But once he hit the slopes, with then-second lady Tipper Gore skiing at his side and ice

hockey gold medalist Pat Sapp as his instructor, Gibbings said, his love of skiing quickly returned, along with his self-confidence.

“The first day, I fell constantly,” Gibbings recalled. “The second day, I didn’t fall at all. And the third day, I was racing. Things that I had

learned as a child came back to me immediately.”

The experience, he said, “opened my mind to the idea that the only disability I have is between my ears.”

“I’m the one who sets my limitations,” he continued. “And when I push to challenge myself, wonderful things happen.”



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Cherie Thurlby

Vietnam-era veteran Bruce Gibbings is helping disabled veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan recognize that they don’t have to settle for lives of limitations.

Gibbings, attending his sixth winter sports clinic here this week, said he’s helping share that recognition with the country’s newest disabled veterans, returned from Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

“The value for me now is taking a newcomer under my wing and helping them see that this is the beginning of a new life that can be as fulfilling as their old life,” he said.

The winter sports clinic exposes disabled veterans to skiing, snowmobiling, sled hockey, rock climbing, scuba diving and skeet shooting, among other activities.

When participants – particularly those with recent disabilities – see other veterans like themselves participating in these activities, Gibbings said they quickly realize that they can, too.

“They’re not disabled,” he said. “They’re differently abled. And this program helps them realize they don’t have to settle for a life of limitations. They can set their own limits.”

Tillman USO center opens in Afghanistan

Sgt. 1st Class Darren Heusel
Special to American Forces Press Service

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan – With snow-peaked mountains and roaring aircraft engines as a backdrop, several hundred members of the coalition in Afghanistan turned out Sunday for the grand opening of the Pat Tillman USO Center here.

The center is named for former Arizona Cardinals safety Pat Tillman, who put his career in the National Football League on hold to join the Army after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States and was later killed in battle in Afghanistan.

Bagram’s is the 123rd United Service Organizations center around the world and just the third in Southwest or Central Asia,

according to John Hanson, USO senior vice president of marketing and communications.

“The USO is the way America can support the military, ... which dates (from) before the days of World War II,” Hanson said.

The center, located next to the Bagram passenger terminal, features several rooms with large-screen televisions, video game stations and telephones. One of Tillman’s jerseys hangs on a wall in the largest room. The center has two floors, indoor plumbing, and a café with drinks and snacks.

Pete Abitante, senior director for international public affairs for the NFL, read a letter from Tillman’s widow, Marie, which stated, “Pat was honored to serve beside you, and we are pleased you will see his name every time you enter this facility.”

“This facility will make your time away

from home a lot easier,” Marie wrote in the letter.

The NFL provided most of the funding for the facility, donating \$250,000 to the USO for construction of a recreational building for troops serving at and moving through Bagram Air Base.

Larry Izzo, New England Patriots, was sporting two huge Super Bowl championship rings and has another on the way, said, “When you played against Pat Tillman, you had to bring your ‘A’ game. He was a warrior.”

Tillman served in Iraq in 2003 and Afghanistan in 2004. He was killed April 22, 2004, during an ambush set up by insurgents in eastern Afghanistan.

(Heusel is assigned to the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.)

Community Events

Live fire exercises

The following training areas are off limits due to convoy live fire training: Training areas 38, 39, 40, 41, 44, 45, 46, 47 and 49. Obey all live fire barricades and road guards. Exercises are currently scheduled for **Monday** and **Tuesday**, and **April 23** and **26-29**, and **May 9-10, 18-19** and **25-26**.

All personnel are required to check in at range control, Building 482, prior to entering the training areas or ranges. For information contact range control at 791-5005.

Teen job search

Army Community Service is holding a job search seminar for teens titled "Finding a Summer Job," from 10 a.m.-noon **April 16** at the Family Outreach Center, Building 33512.

Participants will learn basic interviewing and job searching skills.

Open to military ID card holders only. Pre-registration required; call 791-3579.

Poker run

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Augusta is having a Poker Fun Run starting at 9 a.m. **April 16**, starting and ending at Augusta Harley Davidson.

The ride is open to motorcycles and autos. Cost is \$10 per hand; lunch will be served and prizes awarded for the top three hands. For information, call 724-5901.

Tech show

The Directorate of Information Management is having a Tech Show from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. **April 26** at the Gordon Club.

See demonstrations of the latest technology or talk to

product representatives.

Products include laptop computers, integrated networks and cabling solutions, multimedia software, computer furniture and more.

For information call (888) 282-2262 or e-mail info@atc-expo.com.

Vendors wanted

Vendors are wanted for the annual Cinco de Mayo celebration here April 29 to May 1. To reserve booth space, call 791-9840.

eArmyU rep here

Representatives from eArmyU will be at the Education Center at 1 p.m. **Wednesday**.

For additional information call Tammy Faile, eArmyU Counselor Support, at 791-7745.

Spring ball

The 513th Military Intelligence Brigade and the Gordon Regional Security Operations Center Joint Intelligence Spring Ball is 5:30 p.m. **May 6** at The Gordon Club North Wing. For information call 791-8181.

Month of military child

Child and Youth Services is having a celebration from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **April 23** for the Month of the Military Child, behind the School Age Services building.

Activities include face painting, horseback rides, a moonwalk, fingerprinting, clowns and more. Admission is free.

For information, call 791-4722.

Parade

Child and Youth Services is having a parade for The

Month of the Military Child at 9:30 a.m. **April 22** at the Main Child Development Center, Building 44401.

Building dedication

The 513th Military Intelligence Brigade is having a building dedication at 10 a.m. **May 12**. Building 21710 will be dedicated in honor of Col. Jon Jones, former brigade commander who died June 6, 2004. For information call 791-8181.

CIF closed

The Central Issue Facility will conduct its annual inventory **April 18-21** and will not issue any clothing and equipment during this period. Turn-ins will be accepted by appointment only. For information call 791-2195.

Health promotion

The Civilian Health Promotion Program's spring session is **April 19 to June 9** at the Health and Wellness Center. The program meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3-4 p.m. for exercise and educational classes. Participants must

have supervisor approval and healthcare provider clearance to participate.

Space is limited to the first 25 people to turn in required forms. For information call 787-6756.

Art fest

The Artists' Guild of Columbia County presents "Art in the Barn," an evening of art, music, wine and food, 7 p.m. **April 23** at the Riverwood Plantation Barn, 5123 Riverwood Parkway in Evans.

Tickets cost \$7 at the door. For information contact Nancy Cannon at 854-8974 or go to www.artistguildcc.org.

Energy conservation

When you are away from home for one or more days, help conserve energy by turning off all lights, using a timer or a low wattage bulb for security at night.

Turn off television, radios, fans and small appliances, and in the summer, raise the thermostat to 85 degrees and lower it back to 78 degrees when you return.

At the Movies

The Signal Theater is open Thursday-Sunday. Shows begin at 6:30 p.m. Children 12 and over and adults are \$3.50. Children 6-11 are \$1.75. Children 5 and younger are free. For movie listings and times, call 791-3982.

April 8-14
Friday - The Pacifier (PG)
Saturday - Man of the House (PG-13)
Sunday - Man of the House (PG-13)
Thursday - Cursed (PG-13)

Note: Attendance at Fort Gordon's movie theater is strictly limited to authorized Post Exchange patrons.

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Golf tournament

Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers is having a golf tournament at Gordon Lakes Golf Course **Friday**; shotgun start at 8 a.m.

Cost is \$45 per player, \$180 per team (military), or \$50 per player, \$200 per team (civilian). Mulligans available two for \$5.

Fee includes lunch following the tournament and a free nine-hole round of golf for future play at Gordon Lakes. First, second and third place trophies and prizes from local businesses will be awarded.

For information contact your unit BOSS representative or call Staff Sgt. Jason Engels at 791-2713.

SCRA run

The 13th annual Signal Corps Regimental Association 10K run and kids run/walk is 7:30 a.m. **May 21** (start and finish in front of the Regimental Non-commissioned Officer Academy). Entry Fee is \$15 before May 1, \$20 after, \$25 day of race; kids entry is \$10. Entry fees are non-refundable; make checks payable to the Signal Corps Regimental Association. For information, e-mail SCRArun@signalcorps.org.

Hooah race

The Fourth Annual Army Hooah Race is at 7:30 a.m. **June 11** in Atlanta. Race events include a five-kilometer and 10-kilometer course, as well as a 100 yard tot trot for ages 10 and younger.

The cost for online registration is \$13 at www.active.com. Online registrations accepted until 11 p.m. May 29. Registration forms are also available for download at www.ArmyHooahRace.army.mil. Mail-in registration must be postmarked by May 27; late registration is \$17. For information call Sgt. Maj. Bill Bissonette at (404)464-8228 or Lt. Col. Sue Bozgoz at (404)469-7156.

Track and field

The 2005 Track and Field Championships will be held **April 19-29**.

Individual registration will be accepted from members of any unit that does not have an organized team.

All competition will be held at the Post quarter-mile track on Barton Field. Competition will be limited to the following events:

100 Meter Dash, 200 Meter Dash, 400 Meter Dash, 800 Meter Dash, 1600 Meter Dash, 2 Mile Run, 4 X 100 Relay, 4 X 200 Relay, 4 X 400 Relay, Long Jump, Shot-Put, and Discus.

Team awards will be presented to the first, second and third place teams. Individual awards will be presented to first, second and third place in each event.

For information, contact Al Robinson at 791-1142 or e-mail robinsoa@gordon.army.mil.

Parade

Child and Youth Services is having a parade for The Month of the Military Child at 9:30 a.m. **April 22** at the Main Child Development Center, Building 44401.

Task Force 201st soccer team crowned unit level champs



Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

Everton Barrett, 201st forward, puts a move on a couple of 31st Intel Squadron defenders as he attempts to score during first period action of the post unit level championship game Tuesday at Barton Field. Barrett scored the only goal of the game as his team defeated the 31st 1-0.

Spc. Armando Monroig
Signal Staff

The Fort Gordon unit level soccer championship was decided Tuesday as Task Force 201st defeated the 31st Intel Squadron, 1-0, in spirited competition.

Although the 31st was tenacious at times during the contest, the 201st seemed to be one step ahead of them in every category: offense, defense, ball control, communication between players, size, skill, and maturity.

The 201st dominated and controlled most of the game, as they were more aggressive than their opponent.

Most of the play occurred at the Air Force end of the field, as, TJ Wayne, goalkeeper, did his best to stave off the aggressive players from the 201st.

The 31st, at times threatened, but 201st always seemed to have an answer for their counterparts, be it skillfully handling or stealing the ball, passing it to the open teammate, or pushing it up-field. Army was in control.

Although there was intense competition on the field as players on both sides constantly challenged each other attacking whoever had the ball, the first period of play ended with neither team scoring.

The only goal of the game from both sides came one minute into the second period of play, when Everton Barrett, 201st forward, scored and put his team on the score board.

After that it was a race against the clock for the 31st to get the ball downfield and put themselves in a position to score.

They had the upper hand in the second period as they switched the sides of the field and Tom Springsteen, 201st goalkeeper and assistant coach, had to play with the sunlight shining brightly in his eyes.

Several times they could have scored but they could not capitalize on the situation, mostly in part to 201st superb defense, not only at goaltending, but man-to-man as well.

They played great over-all defense no matter where they were on the field.

Springsteen said the key to their victory was teamwork.

"A lot of communication and looking for the openings," said Springsteen adding that a strong defense and offense helped too.

He said they came a long way from the beginning of the season when they lost their first game to the 31st, 3-0.

Springsteen added that Barrett, Eric Schweser, Steve Oroho, and Luke Dougherty, all played big in this game.

Phillip Stoner, 31st assistant coach, said it was a hard fought game in which both teams played well.

Despite the loss, Stoner said his team came together as a team.

He said Terris Lee and Ryan Poovey both were standouts in this tough loss.

"We had a great year, came together as a team, and got second place," said Stoner as he reflected in his team's season.

The 201st finished with a regular season record of 5-1, while 31st ended their season at 5-2.

Army Black Knights attempt to surpass last year's record

Eric Bartlett

Army News Service

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Army baseball ventured into uncharted territory with a 37-15 record last season, obliterating their previous win total of 26 in 1997.

This season 18 lettermen return to the squad bringing hope that the team can reach even greater heights.

On the eve of beginning their defense of last year's Patriot League championship, the Black Knights (11-5) rolled into Lehigh Saturday with a 10-game winning streak. If they reach their goals of winning the Patriot League championship and making the NCAA Regional once again, it would be the first time in school history that they would achieve those feats in back-to-back seasons.

Army's success on the diamond has been cultivated from head coach Joe Sottolano's first recruiting class, who are now seniors, and a couple of blue-chip sophomores that have brought an electric atmosphere to Johnson Stadium at Doubleday Field.

"(Our seniors) have done a tremendous job, they've been through the growing spurts to where we are now," Sottolano said. "When they leave here, their ghosts, so to speak, will stay back with these other players. (Their success) is going to mold this program for many years to come."

The leader of that senior corps is catcher Schuyler

Williamson, who adds a blend of power and speed to his natural leadership abilities as a backstop to guide the Black Knights.

Williamson, a preseason All-America candidate at catcher, hit an academy record 12 home runs last year, while adding 18 stolen bases. He has started the season slow this year, but he believes it's a matter of time before he breaks out.

"I have all the confidence in the world in myself, even though I'm struggling right now," said Williamson, batting .212 with no homers. "But it doesn't matter because we're on a (10)-game winning streak and that's the way I try to approach things. If I can help this team win, to accomplish our goal of winning two championships in a row, that's why I come to the ballpark."

Williamson, who at times calls his own pitches, has had a hand in making the pitching staff much better. Last year's squad finished 12th nationally with a 3.44 earned run average. So far through 15 games this year, the pitching staff has produced a 2.95 ERA with six shutouts led by senior Justin Kashner and sophomore Nick Hill.

Kashner (3-1, 0.59) and Hill (4-0, 0.67) have been lights out heading into April's league play as the two have combined for 64 strikeouts and only seven walks in 57.1 innings pitched.

Pitching is the straw that stirs the drink at West Point, and in addition to Williamson,

pitching coach Fritz Hamburg has brought an amazing feel of control to the staff.

"Coach Hamburg and Schuyler have helped me progress a ton, both mechanically and the mental side of the game," Hill explained. "Pitchers Wes (Bumgardner, 2004 graduate), Kash (Justin Kashner) and Danny (Pluff) taught me so much last year and this year to bring me along and teach me where I've gone right or wrong."

"Schuyler is an excellent backstop. (He and) coach (Hamburg) both do their homework on the hitters, so I'm working more against the game rather than the hitters," Hill added.

Sophomore outfielder/pitcher Milan Dinga is another player who adds an amazing dimension to the team. He features a 94-mph fastball while sharing the closer role with juniors Dan Pluff and Monte Jones, and also leads the team through 15 games with an astonishing .491 batting average.

"(Milan's) another one of those individuals that every pitch, every swing to him is the most important pitch or swing of the game," Sottolano said.

"Nick Hill, (senior second baseman) Nate Stone and Schuyler are also the same way. Williamson and Stone (who hit .414 last year) are doing extra hitting every day," he said.

"I don't know if anyone works harder than any of those (four) guys, they're very passionate about what they do," added Sottolano, who's



Photo by Eric Bartlett

Freshman Army Black Knight pitcher Cole White works out. taken Army to the NCAA Regional twice since becoming head coach in 2000.

Sottolano has high aspirations for some of the plebes on this year's roster. Freshmen designated hitter/catcher Chris Simmons (.264, one home run) and outfielder/pitcher Cole White (2-0, 0.75) have already contributed this season, but for the team to win championships Sottolano says he needs everyone to contribute.

"Our goal is for everyone to progress and get better each

and every day we go out and practice," Sottolano said.

As Army meets their stiffest competition, Lehigh, in the Patriot League, Sottolano believes his team has the ability to compete and win another championship.

"If we play the way we're supposed to play, I think we'll like what we'll achieve at the end of the year," Sottolano said. "The players understand that and if we focus on the thing we can control the most and that's us, we'll win."

Army approves fielding of M-107 sniper rifle

Kathy Roa
Army News Service

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. – The Army has approved its new long-range .50-caliber sniper rifle, the M-107, for full materiel release to Soldiers in the field.

The M-107 program is managed at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., by the Project Manager Soldier Weapons with engineering support provided by Picatinny’s Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center.

The term “full materiel release” signifies that the Army has rigorously tested and evaluated the item and determined that it is completely safe, operationally suitable and logistically supportable for use by Soldiers, officials said.

Lt. Col. Kevin Stoddard, product manager for Crew Served Weapons, said that PMSW previously equipped combat units in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as other units supporting the Global War on Terrorism, with the M-107 under an urgent materiel release.

The Army expects to complete fielding of the M-107 in 2008, Stoddard said.

The M107 was funded as a Soldier Enhancement Program to type classify a semi-auto-

matic .50 caliber rifle for the Army and other military services. It underwent standard type classification in August 2003.

A production contract was awarded to Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, Inc., Murfreesboro, Tenn., the following month.

Compared to the M24 7.62mm sniper rifle, Stoddard said, the M107 has more powerful optics and fires a variety of .50 caliber munitions.

“This provides sniper teams greater capability to identify and defeat multiple targets at increased ranges,” he said.

The M-107 is based on the Marine Corps special application scoped rifle, the M82A3.

The M-107 enables Army snipers to accurately engage personnel and material targets out to a distance of 1,500 to 2,000 meters respectively, he said.

The weapon is designed to effectively engage and defeat materiel targets at extended ranges including parked aircraft, computers, intelligence sites, radar sites, ammunition, petroleum, oil and lubricant sites, various lightly armored targets and command, control and communications.



Courtesy photo

A Soldier prepares to fire the M-107. Army officials expects complete fielding of the new .50-caliber sniper rifle in 2008.

In a counter-sniper role, the system offers longer stand-off ranges and increased terminal effects against snipers using smaller-caliber weapons.

The complete system includes the rifle itself, a detachable 10-round magazine, a variable-power day-optic sight, a

transport case, a tactical soft case, cleaning and maintenance equipment, a detachable sling, an adjustable bipod and manuals.

The Army plans to modify the M107 in the future by adding a suppressor to greatly reduce flash, noise and blast signatures.

M-7 gun pedestal boosts protection

Rebecca Montgomery
Army News Service

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. – A new M-7 pedestal now allows Soldiers to mount machine guns and grenade launchers in the rear of their Humvee’s open cargo bed to improve convoy protection.

The new, sturdier mount provides gunners with a 360-degree range of fire instead of the 180-degree range provided by the M-6 mount in front of the cargo bed.

The Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center at Rock Is-

land Arsenal has been contracted to produce 4,500 of the new M-7 pedestals. A total of 485 have already been produced and officials there said they are ramping up to produce 500 a month.

The M-7 pedestal allows Soldier to mount the M-249, M-240B, and M2 machine guns and the MK-19 grenade launcher in the rear cargo bed of M998 Humvees.

With the cargo Humvee being one of the most common convoy vehicles, troops in Iraq had been modifying the exist-

ing M-6 machine gun pedestal, officials said. Soldiers began moving the pedestal from its designed and tested position in front of the cargo bed to a rear position between the wheel wells.

This allowed them a 360-degree range of fire instead of the 180-degree range in the front, but created safety and structural issues. This prompted the need to change the M-6 design to better meet the requirement, said officials from the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command.

“We’re very happy with the new M-7 pedestal,” said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Dixon, TACOM Material Fielding and Training Directorate, who has used both the M-6 and M-7 pedestals. “We now have more mobility and more freedom. We stay more focused on the mission.”

The improved pedestal also has a full Humvee bed-width base made of aluminum armor plate with alternate pedestal mounting locations and standard attaching points.

The pedestal has a more rugged column support configuration which officials said reduces the tripping hazard presented by the M-6 and breaking of the support braces. There is also a depression stop which

ensures safe zones of fire when aiming forward, preventing shooting into the cab area.

The M-7 pedestal comes from a joint effort among Army activities at Rock Island: TACOM, the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center-Rock Island (JMTC-RI), and the Armament Research Development and Engineering Center, known as ARDEC.

“We’ve sent them to various units that will be deployed and are going to Iraq,” said Bruce Stout, director of TACOM’s Aircraft Armament and Small Arms Product Support Integration Directorate.



Courtesy photo

An employee at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., demonstrates the new M-7 machine-gun mount.

Buffalo added to 256th arsenal

Spc Erin Robicheaux
Army News Service

CAMP TIGERLAND, Baghdad – A new Soldier has been initiated into the Tiger Brigade family and taken up residence with the 1088th Engineering Battalion. The Buffalo is the most recent equipment to defeat improvised explosive devices and just like its name suggests, the 23-ton machine is made of monstrous proportions, and appears to be virtually unstoppable.

It is a heavily armored vehicle designed for route clearance, giving patrols a closer look at suspected IEDs. This way it can be confirmed that an IED is present before bringing an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team onto the scene.

1st Lt. Cecil Piazza of Company A, 1088th Eng. Bn. has played an active role in bringing the new addition to the 256th Brigade Combat Team. He explained how the machine works.

“(The Buffalo) is equipped with a 30-foot extension, called an Ironclaw, which is operated from within the vehicle. Once an IED is spotted by a route clearance team, it can be investigated without getting physically on the ground to look at it.”

The operator uses the Ironclaw to probe debris and dirt from around the questionable device and also has an extra set of eyes mounted on top to help decipher the identity of the object. Working hand in hand with a television screen inside the vehicle, a 200X zoom video camera has a bird’s eye view of everything. According to Spc. Chris Johnson from Iowa, La., it has the capability to help the crew see clearly.

“Yesterday I was familiarizing myself with the camera, and I zoomed in on a Soldier who was working in that building over there in the motor pool.”

The building in question was more than 150 yards away.

The Buffalo seats six, with the driver and operator at the front and the four remaining Soldiers behind them designated for “eyes.” The crew is seated about 10 to 12 feet off of the ground and will also have access to an extra set of searchlights that are maneuvered from inside the vehicle. With the lights, the camera, and the 30-foot “arm,” they will be able to search anywhere they feel there is a threat.

Piazza says he and his men received a course on the specifications and operations of the Buffalo. They were trained by the 458th Engineers and received classroom instruction, as well as on-the-job training. They were afforded the opportunity to go with the team on missions, and about 75 percent of what they learned was from actually conducting route clearance in the area of operation. Since his unit’s main mission has been to escort EOD, Piazza feels that there is no one better for the job than he and his men.

“We know every single route in the brigade’s area of operation,” he said, “we know the trends, and we know the patterns and habits like the backs of our hands.”

Based on the intelligence gathered through patrol debriefings and information sent down to the company level, the Buffalo will be tasked out to the desired patrols. This is the most recent example of the Tiger Brigade receiving the latest high-tech equipment to help battle the war on terror. The Buffalo’s purpose is to keep Soldiers protected from IEDs. Piazza and the Co. A Soldiers will accompany the patrolling units, and he has faith that this will prove to be a viable asset.

“In light of the activity and tragedies in December and January, the Buffalo will be a great asset and resource for the brigade to have,” he said.

Citizen Soldier weatherman examines Mother Nature’s impact on Signal

Capt. Greg Majewski
335th Theater Signal Command

For most people, bad weather is a minor inconvenience involving putting on a coat, carrying an umbrella or simply staying indoors.

But bad weather can mean a completely different thing for Signal operators.

There is a close relationship between weather effects and the Signal Corps’ ability to communicate on the battlefield.

Weather impacts nearly all signal equipment in some fashion. But what piece of signal equipment does Mother Nature give operators the most obstacles to overcome?

Let’s start out with the system that has part of the atmosphere in its name called Tropospheric scattering, or Tropo for short.

The shelter is called an AN/TRC-170. There are two versions of the antenna used, the V2 and V3. The V2 is used in the heavy tropo version. Its transmissions are much stronger than its V3 counterpart.

For tropo to work, two tropo shelters are set up at different distant locations. An average tropo shot covers about 120 miles. The two transmitted beams cross at the lower troposphere, bouncing back to the receiving end. One dish receives, while the other transmits. Here’s where the weather comes in.

If a strong temperature inversion sets up, the beams bend down and miss each other. The same can be said for any line of sight transmissions.

An inversion is caused when the temperature at the ground cools faster than the air above it. The bigger the temperature differences from the surface to the air above, the stronger the inversion.

Another factor for tropo units is weather on the sun. Sunspot activity on the sun can strongly interfere with transmissions and receptions. Sunspots are dark spots on the surface of the sun. They are cooler areas and tend to erupt in gigantic explosions sending a tremendous amount of radiation towards the Earth.

This radiation is intercepted and absorbed by the earth’s atmosphere most of the time, causing minor problems. But when major eruptions occur, they can wreak havoc on nearly all types of communication systems.

Another communications device that has problems with sunspots is the tactical satellite



Photo by Lt. Sean Passmore

A dust storm in March 2003 provided weather obstacles for signal operators in Iraq.

system, or TACSAT.

There are many different types of satellite equipment used in the Signal Corps. The most commonly used systems include the AN/TSC-85+ and the AN/TSC-93C+ and 93D. Strong solar activity can impact these systems’ data, voice, and video streams.

Space weather isn’t the only impediment to satellite transmissions. Surface weather can also cause problems.

Just like your own television dish at home, military satellites can also experience rain fade from a passing heavy thunderstorm, degrading a satellite system to the point of no reception.

And if lightning is in the area, both satellite and tropo operators must be aware of possible lightning strikes.

Since satellite and tropo must be in the clear to transmit their data, they tend to be the tallest objects around. Lightning tends to strike the tallest object. Both teams place lightning rods above their antennas and dishes to help protect them from a possible strike.

The last major weather obstacle that all signal elements must prepare for is high winds. High winds can tumble antennas and pick up dishes, tossing them like frisbees.

And in a desert environment like Iraq, wind can drive large dust storms, impacting all electrical systems.

Signal Soldiers must not take weather for granted, and listen to all forecast briefs from higher headquarters. The bottom line for the signal operators is to take some preventive measures to protect themselves and their equipment from the worst Mother Nature has to offer.

Multi-national forces take part in Roving Sands

Spc. Chris Jones
Army News Service

FORT BLISS, Texas – For the past three weeks, Fort Bliss, Texas, may have been among the most diversely populated places in the United States as troops from eight foreign nations participated in Roving Sands ’05.

Roving Sands is a large-scale military training exercise, highlighted by Army air defense artillery systems, foreign troops and all four branches of the U.S. military.

Four countries – the United Kingdom, Kuwait, Canada and the Netherlands – have troops that have actively taken part in the training, which is a part of the larger Joint Red Flag exercise. Three other countries – Saudi Arabia, Germany and Australia – have had troops observing, and service members from India also visited Fort Bliss during the exercise.

“We go to war together, we train together,” said Maj. Shawn Lamb, U.K exchange officer for the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade.

Lamb is in his 15th year of service to the British Army, but has spent the last eight months with the 31st, working as a liaison between the two countries, as well as assisting for-

eign troops in their “new home” at Fort Bliss during Roving Sands.

Lamb primarily works with Canadian forces that have been working alongside troops from the 31st since the beginning of major training events last week.

“If you look at (Operation Iraqi Freedom.)” Lamb said, “nothing gets done without working together.”

Maj. Paul Bezem, assistant operations officer for the 11th ADA Brigade, has spent even more time in the United States while working as the exchange officer to the Netherlands.

“It makes it easier (for foreign troops) to have someone here who knows what they are doing, but was also in the same situation as them,” Bezem said.

Bezem, an air defense officer in the Dutch Air Force, said both U.S. and foreign troops are gaining knowledge and confidence by working together.

“The most important part is to learn from each other, and then work together using that knowledge,” Bezem said.

Bezem is working with participants from Kuwait and the Netherlands. Of the Dutch troops involved, a group of 15 are working with 11th Brigade troops on the Patriot missile system.

(Jones is with the 40th PAD.)

Spectrum

Special Olympians...

...winners all



Soldier volunteers help Special Olympians during the parade of athletes of the Area #9 Special Olympics Spring Games here March 30.

Photos by Spc. Nicole Robus



Jeff Davis heads towards the finish line in the 100-meter race, one of many events that took place.

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

As the runners took their position at the starting line, the Soldiers stepped up to the finish line.

There, with stopwatches in hand, they cheered for the Special Olympians to run their fastest and do their best.

"I'm just here to help," said Sgt. Nicholas Alksnitis of the 551st Signal Battalion.

More than 300 Soldiers spent part of March 30 at lower Barton Field awarding ribbons, cheering athletes and recording times for the athletes of the Area 9 Special Olympic games. .

"It's great," he said. "This is what we ought to be doing," he added.

Each county in Georgia has local games, and from there, some of the athletes go on to a regional competition such as the one on March 30.

There were more than 700 children and adults from six Georgia counties including Richmond, Columbia, Burke, Jefferson, McDuffie and Lincoln.

Adults from East Georgia Regional Hospital and Lynndale Training Center also participated, according to event director Arthur Dickerson.

"We couldn't run this event without the Soldiers. Quite a few walked up today and asked to participate," he added.

Dickerson said there were 260 heats scheduled during the competition.

Because of the large number of participants, each event was divided into smaller heats according to age, gender and ability.

Events included 50-meter run, 100-meter run, softball throw, running and standing long jump and shot-put.

For those in wheelchairs or with more severe disabilities, there was the 25-meter assisted walk,



Soldiers from the Signal Officer Basic Course release balloons during the Special Olympics opening ceremonies.

tennis ball throw, bean bag toss, 25-meter wheelchair race and 30-meter slalom.

Spc. Christopher Miller, of the 551st, said he had volunteered with Special Olympics in California for two years.

Miller, who has two relatives with mental disabilities, said the athletes are inspiring and that he enjoyed working with them.

There were plenty of smiles on the faces of the athletes as ribbons were distributed after each race.

"I was a fast girl," said Katelyn Schlein, a Hephzibah Elementary School pupil, who won a first place blue ribbon in the 50-meter run.

About 100 athletes from the area will participate in the state games in June.



Del Calhoun of McDuffie County takes a leap during the long jump event.



Pfc. John Jakus of Company A, 551st Signal Battalion, pins a first place ribbon on Joseph Ystenes of Richmond County. He won 50-meter race for his heat.



An Olympian runs the flame past a cheering crowd to light the torch as part of the opening ceremony. Also part of the opening ceremony was the playing of the National Anthem.



The color guard marches ahead of Olympians during the parade of athletes, part of the opening ceremonies. The parade was accompanied by the Signal Corps Band.



A group of Olympians battle the heat by waiting in the shade for their events to begin.